

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 /081 W

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R 191019Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1475

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USNATO BRUSSELS 479

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1493

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PROP, CSCEJT BU

SUBJECT: ZHIVKOCEON EAST-WEST RELATIONS

REF: A) SOFIA 1380; B) SOFIA 1393; C) BELGRADE 4483

1. IN REFTELS WE REPORTED THAT DEPARTING BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAD ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE RAISED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV SOME FACTUAL MISSTATEMENT (ABOUT NORTHERN IRELAND AND NATO IN THE BALKANS) MADE BY PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV AT THE BERLIN MEETING OF COMMUNIST PARTIES. ON THAT OCCASION AMB BOLLAND HAD ALSO REMARKED THAT THE IDEOLOGICAL SHRILLNESS OF THE ZHIVKOV SPEECH "DID NOT BODE WELL FOR DETENTE."

2. ZHIVKOV SEEMS TO HAVE REFERRED TO THIS WHEN, IN ADDRESSING CHIEFS OF MISSION ACCREDITED TO BULGARIA AT GABROVO JULY 15, HE SAID, FIRST, THAT "THERE SEEMS TO BE  
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IMPRESSION AMONG SOME AMBASSADORS IN SOFIA THAT

IN MY SPEECH IN BERLIN I SHOWED MYSELF IN SOME WAY  
OPPOSED TO DETENTE. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT MY VIEWS  
ABOUT DETENTE HAVE NOT CHANGED. BEFORE, DURING AND  
AFTER THE BERLIN CONFERENCE I STILL ADHERE WHOLE-

HEARTEDLY TO IT."

3. THEREUPON ZHIVKOV ADDED, PROBABLY IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE CRITICISM OF HIS REMARKS THAT THERE CAN BE NO COEXISTENCE ON THE IDEOLOGICAL FRONT: "THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF THE EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH TRYING TO CONVERT THE CATHOLICS TO THEIR CREED; AND THERE CAN ALSO BE NO QUESTION ABOUT THE CATHOLICS CONVERTING THE EASTERN ORTHODOX BELIEVERS TO THEIR CREED." THERE FOLLOWED A REMARK ABOUT "HEAVEN", PROBABLY THAT SUCH MATTERS CONCERN HEAVEN OR THEOLOGY, AND HE WENT ON TO SAY: "IN ANY CASE I CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO PLAY THE CAPITALIST HARP, AND MR. KISSINGER CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO PLAY THE SOCIALIST HARP."

4. COMMENT: WESTERN DIPLOMATS HERE ARE INCLINED TO INTERPRET THE REMARK ABOUT THE CHURCHES IN PARA 3 ABOVE AS SOME BACKTRACKING OF ZHIVKOV FROM HIS RATHER MORE MILITANT REMARKS AT THE BERLIN CONFERENCE; BUT NO OFFICIAL RECORD OF HIS JULY 15 INFORMAL REMARKS EXISTS, AND OF COURSE THEY WERE NOT MADE PUBLIC.

5. WE ARE COMMENTING SEPARATELY ON THE "SOCIALISM VERSUS CAPITALISM" ASPECT OF ZHIVKOV'S REMARKS, IN CONNECTION WITH BELGRADE'S POST-BERLIN COMMENTS ON US STRATEGY (REF C). SINCE WE HAVE RECEIVED NO COMMENT ON LAST TWO PARAS REF A OR ON REFS B AND C, ARE WE TO ASSUME THAT DEPT DOES NOT DESIRE PARALLEL ACTION HERE TO THAT TAKEN BY AMB BOLLAND?  
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## Message Attributes

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